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EX

ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1966

ON THE

PUBLIC HEALTH OF ASHFORD

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. MARSHALL

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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Medical Officer of Health (Ashford Urban District Council)
Principal Medical Officer (Kent County Council)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE

LOCAL AUTHORITY, 1966.

Medical Officer of Health (A.U.D.C.) and Principal Medical Officer (K.C.C.).

MARSHALL, J.,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

HAMMOND, S.F.

M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector

PRATT, S.,

M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector

COULING, S.W.

M.A.P.H.I.

Student Public Health Inspector

BLACKWELL, A.

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and Chief
Public Health Inspector for the Year
1966

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1966.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 32,330 an increase of 1,740 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Rate

The number of live births was 650 (339 M. 331 F.) which was an increase of 99 over that of the previous year. The crude birth-rate was accordingly 20.11 which after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor computed from a Population standardised for age and sex distribution, becomes 21.12, compared with that of 17.7 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

The number of stillbirths was 10 (8 M. 2 F.) and the corresponding rate was 15.15 in comparison with that of 15.4 for England and Wales.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

Thirteen infant deaths were registered twelve of which were under four weeks of age, and the corresponding infantile mortality rate was 20.0 compared with that of 19.0 for England and Wales.

The causes of death were:-

Prematurity - 31 weeks
Prematurity - 28 weeks
Broncho pneumonia. Aspiration of meconium: Neonatal asphyxia
due to cord round the neck - 22 hours.
Respiratory distress: Atelectasis - 1 day.
Broncho-pneumonia)
Congenital Heart) - 3 weeks
Prematurity - 9 hours.
Prematurity: Severe pre-eclamptic toxæmia - 8 minutes.
Prematurity (30 weeks gestation) Twin Pregnancy. Breech delivery
as second twin) - 15 minutes.
Prematurity (30 weeks gestation). Twin Pregnancy. First
twin - 5 days.
Cerebral Haemorrhage: Relative disproportion - 55 minutes.
Cord around neck twice: Post maturity: Placental
insufficiency - 5 hours.
Prematurity - 22 hours.
Asphyxia due to:- Inhalation of vomit - 9 weeks.

The hard core of causes of Perinatal Mortality (i.e. stillbirths and infant deaths under one week of age) is prematurity, asphyxia and atelectasis, birth injuries and congenital malformations, and the chief maternal factor is toxæmia of pregnancy.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

This rate was nil, as there were no deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

Total Deaths and Death Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 327 (169 M. 158 F.) and

the corresponding crude death rate was 10.10, which after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor, as for births, was reduced to 9.49, compared with that of 11.7 for England and Wales.

The chief group cause of deaths was Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular lesions of the Nervous System, which are natural ultimate causes of death amongst the aged and of these there were 193.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart was the cause of 81 (48 M. 33 F.) in the following age-groups: 2 between 35 and 44, 1 between 45 and 54: 21 between 55 and 64: 20 between 65 and 74: 28 over 75 years. Fifty-five of those deaths were over 65 years, including 37 over 75 years and it would seem that a degenerative process is one of the causative factors, although the cause is still obscure and many deaths occur in middle-age.

Cancer, as invariably in previous years, was the second highest cause of deaths of which there were 49 in the following age-groups: 2 between 35 - 44; 6 between 45 - 54; 19 between 55 - 64; 15 between 65 - 74; 7 over 75 years. The majority of the deaths were over 65 years. It is reasonable to assume that many patients seek medical examination too late for treatment which is curative in most cases if the disease is not too advanced.

Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus caused 13 deaths (11 M. 2 F.) in the following age-groups: 1 between 45 - 54; 5 between 55 - 64; 7 between 65 - 74. Cancer of the Lung/Bronchus occurs in earlier age-groups than Cancer of other sites excluding Cancer of the breast, and it may be assumed that the inhalation of tobacco smoke is a precipitating factor in those who are predisposed to the disease. Three of those cases were discovered by the Mass Radiography Service.

Cancer of the Breast was the cause of 5 deaths (5 F.) in the following age-groups: 1 between 45 - 54; 3 between 55 - 64; 1 between 65 - 74. Three of those deaths were in early life, and it is reasonable to assume that medical advice was sought too late, as Cancer in this site is comparatively easy to diagnose.

Cancer of the Uterus was the cause of 1 death in the age-group 45 - 54.

Cancer of the stomach caused 3 deaths in the age-group 55 - 64 years.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no exceptional mortality.

The Infectious Diseases

Measles

282 cases were notified in comparison with 336 cases in the previous year.

This infection per se is not serious these days, and its formerly serious complications are becoming less frequent and when they do occur are treated successfully by specific Antibiotics, excepting Acute Encephalitis which is very rare.

It is equivocal whether this infection should now be statutorily notifiable, as even in non-epidemic periods Practitioners are otherwise fully engaged; also unnecessary time is taken up by Office Staffs in the registration of these notifications and in the unnecessary disbursement of fees.

Whooping Cough

Twenty two cases were notified. In former years outbreaks of this distressful children's disease were common and there was a large number of deaths chiefly due to Broncho-pneumonia.

Scarlet Fever

Thirteen cases were notified. This illness is now mild and its formerly serious complications are becoming infrequent; if any does occur, treatment by a specific anti-biotic is invariably successful.

Food Poisoning (Clostridium Welchii)

Fifteen cases were notified at Willesborough Hospital. A report on this outbreak can be found under the 'Food Hygiene' Section later in this report.

Meningococcal Infection

There was one instance of Meningococcal Meningitis in a three month old baby which made a full recovery after being admitted to Hospital. These cases are becoming very rare.

Erysipelas

Three cases of this infection of the skin were notified. Before the introduction of the Sulphas drugs in 1936 and later of the Antibiotics, this was a serious disease and was the cause of many deaths.

Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia

Nine cases of this illness were notified. Including the secondary Pneumonias which are not notifiable, there were 16 deaths in the following age-groups: 1 under 4 weeks; 1 in age group 1 - 5 ; 4 65 years and over and 10 over 75 years. Pneumonia is a common terminal cause of death amongst the aged.

Tuberculosis.

One new case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified in contrast with seven in the previous year. The age-group was 55 - 64.

There was one new case of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in a child of 4 years old.

There were two deaths due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the following age-groups: 1 between 45 - 54; 1 between 55 - 64. Modern treatment is very successful and it is probable that the disease in patients who die has been too advanced for curative treatment.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your support of and interest in the Department and also the Staff for their very efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Central Public Health Office,
14, Church Road,
Ashford, Kent.

Telephone No. Ashford 1485.

SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

OF THE DISTRICT FOR 1966

AREA: 5,719 acres

REGISTRAR -GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF

The Resident Population	...	...	...	32,330
<u>NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ACCORDING</u> <u>TO THE RATE BOOKS</u>	...	...	...	10,962
<u>NUMBER OF BUSINESS PREMISES</u>	...	...	...	1,200
<u>RATEABLE VALUE</u> (1.4.67)	...	...	...	£1,312,669
<u>SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE</u> (1.4.67)	...	...	...	£5,500

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Ashford is both an agricultural and an industrial town and a business and shopping centre for the large rural community which surrounds it. It merits importance by containing the largest agricultural market in Kent and in having a railway junction where five lines converge, associated with which is a Carriage and Wagon Works, and Electrical Carriage Repair and Inspection Shops. There are a constantly increasing number of Factories, including Tyre Works, Iron Foundry, Printing Works, Agricultural and Vehicle Repair Shops, Flour Mills, Light and Electrical Engineering, Ordnance Depot, Bread, Cereal Products and Jam Factory, a large Food Processing and Dried Foods Factory, a Cosmetic Manufacturer, a Perfumery, Glass Scientific Instrument Firm, Furniture Makers and Plastics Manufacturer, Plating and Rubber moulding firms.

Light industry (mainly medium and small firms) is coming to the district in concert with the absorption into the town of London 'overspill'. Unemployment in the area is relatively low.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>Ashford Urban District</u>	<u>England and Wales.</u>
1. <u>Live Births</u>	650	339	311	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	20.11 (Adjusted Rate 21.12)	17.7
(a) Legitimate	618	318	300			
(b) Illegitimate	32	21	11			
2. <u>Stillbirths</u>	10	8	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)births	15.15	15.4
(a) Legitimate	10	8	2			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3. <u>Total live and still-births</u>	660	347	313			
4. <u>Deaths</u>	327	169	158	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	10.10 (Adjusted Rate 9.49)	11.7
5. <u>Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion</u>	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	Not Available
6. <u>Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age</u>	13	8	5	Rate per 1,000 live births	20.00	19.0
(a) Legitimate	13	8	5	Rate per 1,000 live births (legitimate)	21.20	
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 live births (illegitimate)	-	
7. <u>Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age</u>	12	7	5	Rate per 1,000 live births	18.18	12.9
(a) Legitimate	12	7	5			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
8. <u>Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births</u>					4.85%	
9. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					49	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					-	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					-	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)					-	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

DURING 1966

ALL CAUSES				Males 169	Females 158
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	3	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	-	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	3	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	11	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	-	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	-	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	17	10
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	3	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	20	30
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	48	33
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	7
20.	Other Heart Disease	...	...	12	28
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	6	8
22.	Influenza	...	...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	8	8
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	10	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	-	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	1	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	2	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	11	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	4	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	5	4
35.	Suicide	...	...	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	-	-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1966

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Acute Primary or Influenzel Pneumonia	9	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Measles	282	-	-
Scarlet Fever	13	-	-
Whooping Cough	23	-	-
Food Poisoning	14	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-

ANALYSIS UNDER AGE GROUPS

DISEASE	Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64	65 and over	Unknown
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	4	-
Measles	13	44	16	37	32	128	3	4	1	1	-	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	3	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	3	1	5	3	8	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

New Cases and Mortality, 1966

<u>Age Period</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>				<u>Total Cases on Register</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	141	100	18	28
1 ...	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-				
5 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
15 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
25 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
35 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
45 ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
55 ...	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-				
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Total	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	-				

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924
and Public Health Act, 1936, (Section 172)

No action was necessary during the year in accordance with the above powers.
 There was one death from Pulmonary tuberculosis of a patient who had not been notified as suffering from this disease.

IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the diphtheria immunisation figures for 1966 based on the return sent to the Ministry of Health.

<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Primary</u>		<u>Reinforcing</u>	
	<u>Triple</u>	<u>Diph./Tet.</u>	<u>Triple</u>	<u>Diph./Tet.</u>
1966	241	2	-	-
1965	283	1	-	-
1964	21	5	243	107
1963	68	2	35	29
1962	-	-	9	7
1959 - 1961	5	1	153	237
1950 - 1958	2	22	2	23
Total	620	33	442	403

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

<u>Year</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Reinforcing</u>
1966	70	-
1965	346	-
1964	49	-
1963	14	-
1962	7	9
1959 - 1961	8	354
1950 - 1958	5	44
Total	499	407

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

<u>PRIMARY VACCINATION</u> <u>1 YEAR</u>	<u>RE-VACCINATION</u> <u>SCHOOL AGE BUT UNDER</u> <u>8 YEARS</u>
311	-

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE DISTRICT

1. Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory Service directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health is situated in Preston Hall British Legion Village, Maidstone, and provides valuable services on behalf of the Public Health Departments of District Councils. For example, samples of water, milk, ice cream and other food-stuffs are regularly examined, and in relation to Infectious Diseases their bacteriological reports are of great value.

The local General Hospitals also have their own Laboratories, which provide valuable services to other local Hospitals, to the Consultants and to the Practitioners.

2. Ambulance and Hospital Car Service

The County Council administers this service throughout Kent. The Ambulance Station is situated at Silverhill Road, Willesborough, where five ambulances and five sitting-case cars are garaged. The ambulance personnel numbers one Station Officer and twenty-three Driver/Attendants, supplemented by St. John Brigade and Hospital Car Driver volunteers, whose devotion to duty merits appreciation.

3. Treatment Centres and Clinics

All maternity and Child Welfare, School and Dental Clinics are administered by the County Council.

The following Clinics are held in Ashford:-

(i) Station Road

This is the central and chief clinic and is contained in an 'ad hoc' building. The outlying clinics are complementary. Sessions are held on Tuesday and Thursday of each week from 2.00 p.m.

(ii) Women's Institute Hall, Church Road, North Willesborough

Sessions are held at 2.00 p.m. on alternate Fridays.

(iii) Women's Institute Hall, Faversham Road, Kennington

Sessions are held at 2.00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

(iv) St. Francis Hall, Cryol Road, South Ashford

Sessions are held at 2.00 p.m. on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday of each month.

School Medical Service Clinics

The following clinics of the School Medical Service are held at the main Station Road Clinic.

(a) Minor Ailments Clinic

(b) Dental Clinic

(c) Ophthalmic Clinic

(d) Speech Therapy Clinic

(e) Orthopaedic Clinic - this clinic is held at Ashford Hospital,

is administered by the Regional Hospitals Board and the appointments are made by the County Public Health Department on behalf of school-children. It is held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 2.00 p.m.

Venereal Diseases Clinic

This clinic is held at Ashford Hospital on Wednesdays 10 - 11 a.m. (females) 11 - 12 noon (males) and Fridays 2 - 3 p.m. females) 3 - 4 p.m. (males).

Tuberculosis Clinic

This Clinic is held at Ashford Hospital on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9.30 a.m.

Chiropody Service, British Legion House, Church Road, Ashford

This service is provided for men over 65 years and women over 60 years, for physically handicapped persons and for expectant mothers, and the clinic is held on Monday afternoons and all day on Thursdays.

Hospitals

- (a) Ashford General - accommodation 115 beds.
- (b) Willesborough General - accommodation 133 beds.
- (c) The Warren Hospital - accommodation 16 cubicles beds (including cots) (Infectious Diseases)

4. Private Nursing Homes

There is one registered private Nursing Home which accommodates nine chronic sick patients.

5. Home Nursing and Midwifery Services

The County Council also administers these services. On the local staff there are six full-time and three part-time Home Nurse/Midwives who are engaged in Midwifery and Maternity Nursing and in the Home Nursing of the sick. The standard of service given by the Nurses is excellent and there is complete co-operation between them and the Practitioners. The majority of patients nursed in their homes are elderly and chronic sick, many of whom are awaiting beds in Chronic Sick Hospitals which are still inadequate to cope with the waiting list.

6. The Maternity and Child Welfare Service

This service is also administered by the County Council. There are four Child Welfare Centres within the District, which are conveniently situated for mothers, and the attendances are well maintained. The value of these Clinics is reflected in the gradually falling Infant Mortality rate in the District. Every baby brought to the Clinic is regularly examined and weighed to ensure that no unsuspected defects exist and that growth is normal and vigorous. The sale of essential foods and vitamin complements at cost price is also of value to mothers. Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough and vaccination against Smallpox and Poliomyelitis are also available at these clinics.

7. The Domestic Help Service, the Family Care Service, Evening and Night Attendant Service and the Family Welfare Service

(a) The Domestic Help Service of the County Council has become a very important health service in the home and the calls of this service are still rapidly expanding. The service is administered peripherally by Area and Local Domestic Help Organisers. In this District it is becoming increasingly difficult to enlist Domestic Helps who are paid at the rate of 4/9d. per hour (from March 1967) and there is a sliding scale of charges based on the family income of the applicant, the maximum charges being 5/7d. per hour in the

town and 5/6d. in the country, from 3.7.67 these rates will be 5/11d., and the minimum charge 5/- per week, which is re-imbursed by the National Assistance Board in necessitous cases.

The majority of those who benefit from the service are the aged and infirm and chronic sick. Regard, however, should be given to the fact that many would degenerate into Chronic Sick Hospital cases without this service, where maintenance costs would far exceed the cost of domestic help. The Service is also of great value to lying-in mothers and to those mothers, who are discharged from Hospital following operations, and others suffering from miscellaneous illnesses. The service relieves anxiety and stress in the home particularly where there are children under five years of age and aids the recovery of the mother from illness.

(b) The Family Care Service

Prior to the introduction of this service, it was necessary to remove children, particularly those under five years of age, to expensive Children's institutions from families in which the mother was absent from home through severe illness, death, estrangement, desertion or separation or other cause. The service is designed to provide help and care for the children whilst the father is at work and the Family Help may be required to reside in the home. The maximum period of help is for three months, during which period the father is expected to make permanent arrangements for the care of his children. This is a valuable service and although there is only a small number of families who require this help, expensive institutional maintenance, particularly where there is a large number of children in one family, is obviated.

(c) Evening Attendant Service

This service is designed to provide help to old people living alone but who do not require more help than half to one hour's attention before retiring for the night. The number of old people who require this service is, however, not considerable.

(d) Night Attendant Service

This service provides for people of all ages who are seriously ill and live alone. The helpers go at 10 p.m. and stay until 6 a.m. the following morning, and attend each night, including Sunday, until the patient recovers or dies or is removed to hospital. Assistance is also given for several nights to relatives who are unable to stay every night throughout. This service has proved to be of great value to old people living alone, most of whom have strong nostalgic attachments to their homes.

(e) Family Welfare Service

This domestic help service was introduced by the County Council to help the so-called Problem Families, the objectives being threefold; to raise the standard of living of these families, to improve the standard of Child Care, and to prevent the break-up of the family.

SECTION C.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

The water supply for the whole of the Urban District is provided by the Mid-Kent Water Company.

(i) Westwell

There remain two gravel-screen bore holes in serviceable condition each with pumping plant installed capable of extracting 10,000 gallons per hour from each bore-hole. A softening plant (Clark's process) is in operation here. The water is pumped by an electrically-driven pump to a covered reservoir (capacity 1,000,000 gallons) at Potter's Corner, from where it enters the supply network. The source affords a stand-by potential supply.

(ii) Henwood

This supply comes from four wells with interconnecting adits, approximately 40 feet deep. From the electrically driven pumps the water is pumped into the supply network and a surplus would be diverted into the reservoir at Potter's Corner. Extraction from this source has ceased but it is maintained in serviceable condition as an emergency supply.

Water extracted from these sources is arranged to be chlorinated by fully automatic means as an added safeguard to the public health.

(iii) Godmersham

The water source is from two 24" borings into the chalk (each 200 feet deep) with an authorised extraction of up to 3 million gallons per day. The water is pumped to Kennington supply network and the trunk main connected to the Ashford supply. It also serves Batchelor's Foods Factory water tower (100,000 gallons capacity) and some water can be boosted to the Hastingleigh reservoir. A one million gallon covered service reservoir on the downs near Godmersham is a balance reservoir and supplies by gravity when the Godmersham Station is shut down.

(iv) Charing

This water is obtained from the greensand and the borings are approximately 160 feet deep. It is pumped to Fairbourne and Charing Hill Reservoirs (capacity 1,000,000 and 283,500 gallons respectively). These reservoirs afford a subsidiary or auxiliary supply to Kennington.

Samples

By arrangement with the Public Health Laboratory Service samples for bacteriological examination have been taken from points on the distribution network at the rate of normally four each month. By arrangement with the Water Undertakers the results of their routine sampling of supplies to the Urban Area are made available.

Houses connected to public mains

10,961 houses are connected to the public mains, leaving only one house (in Blackwall Road) known not to be connected.

Examination of Samples taken during the Year 1966

	<u>Bacteriological Examination.</u>			<u>Chemical Examination</u>		
	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Not Satisfactory</u>	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Not Satisfactory</u>
<u>Statutory Supply Undertakings</u>						
(a) Ashford U.D.C.	46	46	-	-	-	-
(b) Mid-Kent W/S	60	60	-	16 (10 ^x)	16 (10 ^x)	-
Private Sources piped to dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other private Sources	--	-	-	-	-	-

x Indicates raw water.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

An excellent effluent which more than satisfies the Kent River Authorities requirements continues to be produced from the Council's sewage works at Bybrook. It has now been found necessary however, to give consideration to extensions to the works as the quantity of sewage received nears its designed capacity.

New main foul and surface water sewers were constructed during the year to serve the existing South Ashford area and to provide for the new Council Estate at Stanhope. A branch from this foul sewer was constructed to the site of the Pumping Station at Willesborough which enabled pumping at this site to be discontinued so that sewage from the South Willesborough area was connected to flow by gravity to the main South Ashford Pumping Station.

Total number of inhabited houses including flats - 10,962

Total number of houses connected to the sewers - 10,722

No. of houses not connected to the sewers (estimated)- 240

3. Swimming Bath

The Public Swimming Bath/^{water} is break-point chlorinated and free chlorine is maintained up to 2 p.p.m. Additions of soda ash are made to reduce acidity in the water so as to avoid eye defects etc.

The water is purified by means of a rapid sand filtration plant with a twelve-hour turn-over period. The bath (100 x 25 yds.) has a capacity of 600,000 gallons.

The number of swimmers was 52,051 (36,793 last year) plus members on 20 'Club Nights'.

Samples of the water sent for bacteriological examination were satisfactory in each case. These samples were aimed to be taken at time of maximum use.

On the spot testing is carried out at the Public Baths and at Kennington Primary School and Boy's Grammar School Swimming baths for residual chlorine (and for the FH reading, as break-point chlorination conditions are maintained). The results were satisfactory as were the bacteriological results from these two schools and from a private school where marginal chlorination is practised. It is considered very important to maintain a proper control over these school pools (especially once the initial flush of enthusiasm wears a little thin) with the need to give regular and proper attention to maintenance.

5. Eradication of Vermin

The number of houses found to be infested with vermin was as follows :-

	<u>Bugs</u>	<u>Fleas</u>	<u>Cockroaches</u>	<u>Ants</u>
Council Houses	1	9	4	20
Other Houses	-	4	-	1
Other Premises	1	2	12	12

Modern insecticides applied in accordance with more scientific techniques has resulted in the continued decline in serious infestations with vermin. There is no evidence in this area of any developing resistance in flies to the chloraminated hydro-carbon group of insecticides and these were used to spray refuse collection vehicles each week to reduce the fly population, which could possibly be spread by those vehicles.

The dustbin hire scheme continues to be operated, the number of bins on hire was 424 by the end of the year.

The Council continued the provision of a disinfection service for the two General Hospitals and the Warren Lane Hospital.

6. Rats and Mice Destruction

Instances where rodent control work was carried out are detailed below. Domestic premises receive a free service.

(A) <u>Total Premises Inspected as Result</u>	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwellings (incl. Council)</u>	<u>All Other</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
(1) <u>NOTIFICATION</u>	1(4)	167 (104)	42 (42)	3 (1)
No. found infested	<u>Rats</u> 1 (4)	97 (61)	22 (19)	3 (1)
	<u>Mice</u> -	49 (40)	20 (22)	-
(2) <u>SURVEY</u>	17 (25)	124 (63)	21 (17)	4 (7)
	<u>Rats</u> 14 (22)	90 (43)	2 (8)	3 (5)
	<u>Mice</u> -	25 (9)	1 (1)	3 (-)

(For comparative purposes last years figures are given in brackets)

The figure for dwellings surveyed is high arising from five schemes of block control for mice and six for rats which were carried out during the year. A major infestation of mice was encountered where mice had eaten about one hundred weight of grass seed but fortunately they were rapidly cleared up by using warfarin bait, consuming in the process some 16 - 20 lbs. of it. There were an unusual number of instances of either rats or mice being 'built in' to new houses on private estates - unwanted visitors.

A light but fairly widespread infestation of the sewerage system was revealed by the sample survey taken of the whole district in the Spring and this was followed by the treatment of the infested sewers using warfarin with Pinhead Oatmeal. The same bait was used on the Town Centre where all the manholes were baited. There was follow-up treatment using the same bait in the town centre and the areas found to have been infested in the Spring during the process of the Autumn sewer baiting. The volume of traffic has made sewer treatments in the town's one-way system rather hazardous so that treatments here are carried out using fluoracetamide with damp sausage rusk direct baiting technique. The results revealed by the Autumn sewer treatment were very satisfactory indeed.

7. Clean Air Act

Some eighteen notifications of proposals to install furnaces were received in the course of the year. After alterations to chimney heights were agreed in five cases the proposals shown on plans for new chimneys were approved in fifteen instances. Plans had to be rejected in one case until satisfactory proposal was forthcoming.

It was only necessary in one instance to serve formal notice of a smoke nuisance, and no recourse to proceedings proved necessary.

Atmospheric Pollution

The results obtained from the continuous monitoring of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the centre of Ashford at Regents Place Recording Station continue to compare favourably with similar data from Aylesbury, Crayford and Friern Barnet which are reasonably comparable. Our results are typical of domestic smoke as opposed to pollution from industrial sources. With the electrification of the Railways this latter is satisfactory in this area apart from a localized problem associated with an iron foundry. Continued housing expansion to the South of Ashford made it necessary to have a sampling point there. Accordingly a semi-automatic recording station has been built into the Brookfield South Community Centre and it is hoped to have this operating early in 1967. The accumulation of atmospheric records over an extended period covering the local range of climatic conditions is considered to be well worth while.

8. Noise.

A glance at the list of the types of complaints of noise encountered during the year reveals their extreme diversity - road drills, T.V. aerial, power saw, ice cream van motor, noisy loading lift, dance beat group and so on. In order to make the best use of plant and machinery there is a tendency for the modern factory with a heavy capital commitment in plant and machinery to employ 24-hour working. This has its own impact on the increasing noise problem. At night noises seem greatly intensified to recipients and in the case of a fan noise from one relatively isolated factory it proved irksome to residential area about a mile distant. Good co-operation from the firm was forthcoming however and a remedy sought and applied with effective results. The need cannot be over-stressed, to carefully consider possible noise problems in this mixed ^{residential} urban/light industrial area at the planning stage for new industries moving into the area. Changes of kind of industrial activity cannot, however, be adequately provided for at the planning stage.

9. Analysis of Public Health Inspectors Visits
(but excluding work carried out under Offices, Shops and
Railway Premises Act).

Inspections

Housing

Dwellings re repairs	...	...	...	501
Number of dwellings made fit	...	...	...	117
Dwellings re Demolition & Closing Orders	...	...	...	60
Clearance Areas	...	...	...	4
General Survey and assessment	...	...	...	510
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	242
Improvement areas	...	...	...	275
Multilets	...	...	...	57
Multilet Survey	...	...	...	-
Overcrowding Survey	...	...	...	9
Housing, adequacy of	...	...	...	158
Drainage	...	...	...	378
Water supply	...	...	...	110
Certificate of Disrepair	...	...	...	2
Certificate as to Remedying of Defects	...	...	...	-
Miscellaneous Rent Act	...	...	...	4

Food

Abattoir	...	...	...	430
Bakehouses	...	...	...	7
Butchers	...	...	...	45
Catering establishment and clubs	...	...	...	40
Dairies	...	...	...	1
Fish (incl. fried)	...	...	...	22
Licensed premises	...	...	...	16
Stalls, itinerant vendors and delivery vans	...	...	...	115
All other food premises	...	...	...	164
Registered premises under Sec. 16 included in above	...	...	...	60
Food Inspection and Sampling	1..	...	...	315

Factories and Shops

Factories with power	...	...	...	70
Factories non-power	...	...	...	11
Workplaces	...	...	...	1
Outworkers	...	...	...	27
Shops Act (hours)	...	...	...	8
Offices and Shops	...	...	...	316

General

Rats and Mice destruction	...	...	...	53
Other vermin	...	...	...	22
Dirty houses	...	...	...	52
Offensive accumulation	...	...	...	36
Offensive odours	...	...	...	24
Nuisances from keeping animals	...	...	...	11
Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	4
Caravans	...	...	...	132
Aged and infirm persons	...	...	...	1
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	23
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	12
Noise	...	...	...	40
Agriculture safety and welfare	...	...	...	1
Smoke abatement - observations	...	...	...	10
- visits	...	...	...	42
Air Monitoring	...	...	...	247
Fireguards (Heating Appliances)	...	...	...	-
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	172

Improvements and Repairs Effected

1. House Repairs

(a) External

Chimney stacks	...	...	...	25
Roofs	...	...	...	45
Gutters and fall pipes	...	...	...	56
Brickwork, pointing and rendering	...	...	...	43
Windows (incl. cords)	...	...	...	48
Doors	...	...	...	9
Decorations	...	...	...	4
Outbuildings	...	...	...	-
Yard Surfacing	...	...	...	18

(b) Internal

Plasterwork (walls and ceilings)	...	...	...	68
Doors and cupboards	...	...	...	6
Fireplaces and stoves	...	...	...	12
Staircases	...	...	...	5
Floors (incl. u.f.v.)	...	...	...	23
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	26

2. Dampness Remedied

Walls	...	...	...	83
Floors	...	...	...	5

3. Foodstore

Made satisfactory	...	...	...	15
Provided	...	...	...	3

4. Water

Leaks repaired	...	...	...	5
Piping renewed	...	...	...	5
Sinks renewed	...	...	...	9
Drainers renewed or provided	...	...	...	1
Hot Water Supply	...	...	...	3
Washing facilities improved	...	...	...	23

5. Water Closets

Repaired	...	...	...	19
New provided	...	...	...	2

6. Ventilation

Improved	...	...	...	11
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7. Natural Lighting

Improved	...	...	...	2
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8. Drainage

Drains renewed or repaired	...	...	...	40
Drains cleared	...	...	...	15

9. Stability Remedied

...	...	...	3
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ANNUAL REPORT 1966

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1966

1. Record of Inspections

<u>Type of</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>'General'</u> <u>Inspection</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Re-inspec-</u> <u>tions</u>
Offices	121 (125)	8 (50)	} 316 (412)
Shops	255 (242)	13 (115)	
Wholesalers	22 (22)	3 (18)	
Catering	24 (27)	2 (12)	

(1965 figures are given in brackets)

Total visits - 342 (607)

2. Total Persons Employed in Classes of Work in Various Categories of Premises

	<u>Office</u> <u>Work</u>	<u>Shop</u> <u>Work</u>	<u>Whole-</u> <u>sale</u> <u>Work</u>	<u>Cater-</u> <u>ing</u> <u>Work</u>	<u>Canteen</u> <u>Work</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>all</u> <u>Staff</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Female</u> <u>Staff</u>
Offices	968(931)	48 (24)	55(55)	-	1 (2)	1152(1012)	511(471)
Shops	155(108)	1559(1335)	8 (8)	- (3)	7 (9)	1763(1463)	1115(993)
Wholesalers	47 (45)	4 (4)	171(138)	-	-	223 (187)	52 (44)
Catering	4 (5)	13 (12)	1 (-)	144(159)	7 (-)	204 (176)	168(149)
	1174(1089)	1624(1313)	235(201)	144(162)	15 (11)	3192(2791)	1847(1657)

(1965 figures are given in brackets)

3. Number of Exemption Certificates in force during year

Exemptions from compliance fully with provisions of the Act as to toilet accommodation were granted for temporary periods in respect of two shops and one catering establishment and one warehouse. The latter was also exempted from the provision of washing facilities. In all instances it is expected that re-arrangements or the provision of additional facilities will secure compliance with legal standards during 1967.

4. Extent of Compliance with Various Sections of the Act

(a) Offices

	<u>Satisfactory</u> (Found on General Inspect- tions)	<u>Unsatisfactory</u> <u>Notices Served</u>	<u>Notices</u> <u>Complied with</u> (Re-inspec- tions)
Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	8	-	1
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	6	2	-
Temperature (Sec. 6)	7	1	8
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	7	1	3
Lighting (Sec. 8)	6	2	1
Washing fac. (Secs. 9 & 10)	5	3	7
Drinking & Washing fac. (Sec. 11)	2	6	13
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	7	1	5
Sitting Facilities (Sec. 13)	6	2	4
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec. 14)	7	1	1
Safety floors, steps & staircases (Sec. 16)	8	-	3

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Notices</u>
	(Found on General	Inspection	(Re-inspec-
	Inspection)	tions)	tions)
Safety of Machines (Sec.17)	6	2	5
Risk bodily injury or health etc. (Sec. 22)	3	-	3
First Aid (Sec. 24)	5	3	13
Abstracts	5	7	7

(b) Shops

Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	12	1	2
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	13	-	1
Temperature (Sec. 6)	6	7	41
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	7	6	14
Lighting (Sec. 8)	10	3	8
San. Convenience & Washing Fac. (Secs. 9 & 10)	9	4	10
Drinking & Washing fac. (Sec. 11)	6	7	41
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	9	4	19
Sitting Facilities (Sec. 13)	8	5	13
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec.14)	9	-	4
Safety floors, steps & staircases (Sec. 16)	8	5	9
Safety of Machines (Sec. 17)	7	6	26
Risk bodily injury or health etc. (Sec. 22)	8	5	17
First Aid (Sec. 24)	7	6	41
Abstracts	6	7	12

(c) Wholesale Dept. or Warehouse

Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	3	1	-
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	4	-	1
Temperature (Sec. 6)	2	2	3
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	3	1	2
Lighting (Sec. 8)	2	2	-
San. Convenience & Washing fac. (Secs. 9 & 10)	3	1	2
Drinking & Washing Fac. (Sec. 11)	1	3	3
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	1	3	1
Sitting Facilities (Sec. 13)	3	1	2
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec.14)	-	-	-
Safety floors, steps & staircases (Sec.16)	4	-	2
Safety of Machines (Sec. 17)	2	2	-
Risk bodily injury or health etc. (Sec. 22)	2	-	2
First Aid (Sec. 24)	3	1	2
Abstracts	3	1	-

(d) Catering Establishments (Public)

Cleanliness (Sec. 4)	2	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec. 5)	2	-	-
Temperature (Sec. 6)	2	-	6
Ventilation (Sec. 7)	2	-	2
Lighting (Sec. 8)	2	-	1
San. Convenience & Washing fac. (Secs. 9 & 10)	1	1	2
Drinking & Washing Fac. (Sec. 11)	2	-	3
Accdn. Clothing (Sec. 12)	1	1	-
Sitting Fac. (Sec. 13)	2	-	4
Seats for Sedentary Work (Sec.14)	-	-	2
Safety floors, steps & staircase (Sec.16)	2	-	1
Safety of Machines (Sec. 17)	2	-	4
Risk bodily injury or health etc.(Sec. 22)	2	-	-
First Aid (Sec. 24)	2	2	6
Abstracts	-	4	-

Generally good co-operation continues to be met by employers in implementing the letter of and spirit behind the Act. By the end of the year the Act is being observed apart from a few instances where practical and other difficulties are encountered. Whilst the enforcement of the Act received a fair proportion of the available time of the Inspectors, less time was spared for it than in 1965.

5. Accidents Reported during the Year

Workplace	Number Reported		Total No Investigated	Action Recommended			
	Fatal	Non Fatal		Prosecution	Formal warning	Informal advice	No Action
Offices		2					
Retail shops		7	3			1	2
Wholesale shops Warehouses		4					
Catering establishments open to public, canteens		2					
Fuel storage depots							
TOTALS		15	3			1	2

Analysis of reported accidents

	Office	Retail shops	Wholesale warehouses	Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Fuel storage depots
Machinery					
Transport					
Falls of persons	1	5	1	2	
Stepping on or striking against object or person		1			
Handling goods		1	2		
Struck by falling object			1		
Fires and explosions					
Electricity					
Use of hand tools					
Not otherwise specified	1				

6. The Working of the Act

Some frustration is felt at the continued absence of specific Regulations governing lighting standards, as the adequacy of light is, to a degree, subjective. If one postulates a high or a low standard as minimum one has the feeling that the Regulations may prescribe one very different from that chosen, thereby causing the co-operative employer a double expense in complying. To date we have contented ourselves with taking light readings where illumination appeared poor and requesting increased lighting where working areas fall below twelve lumens.

Incorporated in informal notification of requirements under the Act is a reference to the need to notify accidents to the Local Authority in accordance with the Act. It is believed that whereas

firms of national standing tend to do this, some of the smaller undertakings are failing to. There is a marked absence of reports from purely local employers.

There is some anxiety felt in the application of Section 23 of the Act - prohibiting heavy work. There is a tendency of recent years for young school leavers, especially girls, to be employed in the self-service type of shop. There is often no storeman - or he is not always available. The work involves lifting, carrying and stacking cartons of various types of foodstuffs or cheeses, and in the exuberance of youth (and ignorance of application) back injuries especially can be caused which may have long-term significance. No attempt is made to show these young people how to lift 'heavy' objects, and it is suggested that some information in diagrammatic form could usefully be added to the 'abstracts' required to be exhibited under the Act, and employers urged to emphasize the matter.

In other respects operations under the Act all worked fairly smoothly. Thanks to the very good co-operation received from the Surveyor's Dept., when plans are submitted for Building Regulations approval, requirements of the Act are considered and informally incorporated in the plans for offices, shops, warehouses and catering establishments. This greatly facilitates the enforcement of the Act in a changing and developing Ashford.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health

	<u>Number on Reg- ister</u>	<u>Inspect- ions</u>	<u>Number of Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
i) Factories in which Section 1, 2,3,4, and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	30	11	-	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	176	70	8	-
iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	18	18	-	-
Total	224	99	8	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred</u>		<u>No. of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted</u>
			<u>To H.M. Inspec- tor</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspec- tor</u>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Convenience					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	12	12	-	-	-
Total	17	17	-	-	-

OUTWORKERS - There are sixteen Outworkers in the district.

- 25 -
SECTION D.

HOUSING

The number of dwellings completed during the year was as follows:-

	<u>Completed</u> <u>1966</u>	<u>1946 - 1966</u> <u>(inclusive)</u>
(i) Prefabricated temporary bungalows	-	81
(ii) New Permanent Houses:-		
<u>Woolreeds Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	9
(b) 3 " "	14	378
(c) 4 " "	2	23
(d) 2 " maisonettes (Court Wurtin)	-	8
<u>Musgrove Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	40
(b) 3 bedroom "	-	73
(c) 4 " "	-	3
<u>Osborne Road Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	28
(b) 3 " "	-	175
(c) 4 " "	-	4
<u>Aylesford Green Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	6
(b) 3 " "	-	10
<u>Beaver Green Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	70
(b) 3 " "	12	437
(c) 4 " "	1	10
<u>Burton Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	58
(b) 3 " "	-	98
<u>Repton Estate</u>		
(a) 2 Bedroom type	-	30
(b) 3 " "	4	-
<u>Brookfield South Estate</u>		
(a) 3 bedroom type	76	205
(b) 3 " 3 storey with garage	64	105
(c) 4 " type	9	11
<u>Bockhanger Estate</u>		
(a) 3 bedroom type	-	158
(b) 4 " "	-	34
<u>Bockhanger Estate</u>		
(a) 1 bedroom type - flats	-	34
(b) 2 " Maisonette	-	70
(c) 3 " "	-	66

(iii)	<u>Flats</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1946 - 66</u> <u>(inclusive)</u>
	<u>Croft Road</u>		
	(a) Bed-sitting room type	-	2
	(b) 2 bedroom type	-	1
	(c) 1 " "	-	3
	<u>Musgrove Estate</u>		
	(a) Gregory Flats	-	28
	(b) Bed-sitting room type	-	16
	(c) 2 bedroom Easiform type	-	16
	<u>Woolreeds Estate</u>		
	(a) Bed-sitting room type	-	6
	(b) 2 bedroom type	8	14
	(c) 1 " " (Court Wurtin)	-	6
	(d) 2 " " " "	-	2
	(e) Bed-sitting room type (Court Wurtin)	20	24
	<u>Osborne Road Estate</u>		
	(a) 3 bedroom type	-	1
	<u>Godfrey Walk</u>		
	(a) Bed-sitting room type	-	13
	(b) 1 bedroom type	-	27
	(c) 2 " "	-	28
	<u>Beaver Green Estate</u>		
	(a) Gregory Flats	-	28
	(b) 1 bedroom type	-	18
	(c) 2 " "	-	53
	(d) Bed-sitting room type	-	4
	<u>Brookfield South</u>		
	2 bedroom type	62	62
	<u>Aylesford Green Estate</u>		
	(a) 2 bedroom type	-	20
	(b) 1 " "	-	12
	<u>East Stour Farm</u>	-	8
	<u>Repton Estate</u>	-	48
	Kennington - 2 bedroom type	-	8
(iv)	<u>Old People's Bungalows</u>		
	(a) <u>Burton Estate</u>	-	12
	(b) <u>Beaver Green Estate</u>	-	16
	(c) <u>Woolreeds Estate</u> (Court Wurtin		
	2 bedroom type	-	5
	1 " "	12	12
	(d) <u>Waterside</u>		
	1 bedroom type	-	6
	(e) <u>Gladstone and Mead Roads</u>		
	1 bedroom type	-	2

	<u>1966</u>	<u>1946 - 66</u> <u>(inclusive)</u>
Total number of units provided by the Council	252	2,786
Number provided by private enterprise	193	1,779
<u>Analysis of Applications for Council Houses</u>		
Childless couples	62	
One child families	72	
Two/Three child families	53	
Four or more child families	8	195
<u>Living in Ashford - Adequately Housed</u>		
Childless couples	95	
One child couples	86	
Two/Three child families	74	
Four or more child families	4	283
<u>Living elsewhere, working in Ashford - inadequately housed</u>		
Childless couples	13	
One child families	21	
Two/Three child families	24	
Four or more child families	10	68
<u>Living elsewhere, working in Ashford - adequately housed</u>		
Childless couples	18	
One child families	28	
Two/Three child families	59	
Four or more child families	6	111
Applicants for bed-sitting room flats of whom 22 are householders	...	47
Applicants for old peoples dwellings of whom 90 are householders	...	138
Total applicants	...	842

A. Houses demolished

<u>In Clearance Areas</u> <u>(Housing Act, 1957)</u>	<u>Houses</u> <u>Demolished</u>	<u>Displaced during year</u>	
		<u>Persons</u>	<u>Families</u>
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	38	-	-
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement	-	-	-
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sect. 43 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-
<u>Not in Clearance Areas</u>			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sect. 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	22	19	9
B. <u>Unfit Houses Closed</u>			
	<u>Number</u>		
(5) Under Sec. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957	2		
(6) Under Sec. 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	-		
(7) Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957	1		

C. Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
(8) After informal action by local authority	110	-
(9) After formal notice under -		
(a) Public Health Act	-	-
(b) Secs. 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	7	-
(10) Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957	-	-

'Slum' Clearance

The Survey to determine in accordance with the current standard of an unfit house what houses could be properly included in the 'Slum Clearance programme' for the next five years was not completed until half way through the year. A fairly detailed assessment of nearly 400 houses was made of which some 60 had been effectively re-conditioned by their owners as to give them a useful life of at least 15 years. The owner/occupation of houses had led (generally) to a higher standard of maintenance and in practice adds difficulties in deciding at what point in time a near 'ripe' terrace should be programmed for clearance. In view of Central Housing Advisory Committee having appointed a Sub-Committee to consider establishing 'objective criteria' to enable local authorities to review slum clearance problems on the basis of a common standard, there was perhaps a case for delaying a decision on the future programme. On balance it was considered preferable to adopt a tentative 'slum' clearance programme comprising some 79 houses with a further 55 houses listed as having a likely life of not more than 10 years, later modifying this as found necessary. Only modest progress made during the year in the matter of 'slum' clearance whereas the tables indicate some 60 houses, mostly emptied as a result of earlier activity, were demolished during the year.

Improvement of Houses

The number of houses improved by means of grants increased slightly this year and the number of tenanted houses so improved was also higher. The standard grant is clearly the most popular grant but with the steady increase in builder's charges which are tending to outstrip the standard grant allowances (fixed in 1959) there may be some return to the discretionary grant scheme unless adjustments are made.

Following its decision last year to use the provisions of the Housing Act, 1964 to secure the improvement of houses by declaring 'improvement areas', the Council early in the year declared half the houses in Christchurch Road to be in an Improvement Area and some six months later declared the second half of Christchurch Road to be Stage II of the Christchurch Road Improvement Area. Concurrently, 214 dwellings in an area of houses on the South side of Hythe Road were inspected in detail and improvement and repairs schedules provided in the case of 112 of them. This area, which will be known as the 'Linden Road Environs Improvement Area', was found to contain some 35 houses which needed to be improved and following the same procedure as with the Christchurch Road Improvement area the Council made public its intention in the future to declare the area to be an Improvement Area. Steady progress was made in following the complicated procedure dictated by the Act with respect to the Christchurch Road Improvement Area but the emphasis throughout has been to achieve voluntary improvement and this has been entirely successful. By the end of the year four Undertakings from owners to carry out improvements have been accepted and a number of applications for improvement grants have been approved. A number of owner/occupiers were stimulated into carrying out improvements.

Where the Council had received applications from the tenants of private houses not in improvement areas for improvements to be carried out

to their houses, whilst formal steps were initiated an informal approach to owners secured the work to be carried out in three cases completed in the course of the year. In two other instances undertakings from the owners to carry out the work were accepted by the Council.

As a result of improvement works to houses, it was found that the Water Undertakers were requiring the renewal of the corroded water supply pipes which were serving, in some cases, four or more houses. Water supplies in such cases clearly became worse when additional fittings were connected as a result of improvement works and in a valuable gesture to help owners faced with the costs of providing a new separate supply from the main, the Council agreed to ~~make~~ a contribution normally amounting to one third of the total cost of the work. Applications for this grant have so far averaged about one a month.

Multilet Dwellings

No formal action was taken in the course of the year. Where multilet accommodation is encountered in routine work or through 'follow up' of applicants for rehousing the aim is to secure either the cessation of use in unsatisfactory premises, or to secure a 'satisfactory' standard of accommodation. Much of this type of accommodation however has a 'floating' population who treat it as temporary only, so that standards can easily slip. The over-intensive use by immigrants, which was experienced a few years ago and which resulted in the employment of 'directions' controlling numbers, appears to have almost died out for the time being.

SECTION E.

1. Milk Supplies

There are forty-two registered distributors of milk in the district and four registered dairies.

Samples of milk taken in course of delivery were taken with the following results:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Untreated	3	-
Treated	46	-
Sterilized	2	-

The three samples of raw milk were free from Brucilla infection.

2. Fresh Cream

Of ten samples of cream taken in the course of the year, four were unsatisfactory - all untreated samples direct from farms. These were reported to the appropriate Ministry, but do represent a potential health hazard.

3. Ice Cream

Sampling was again mainly concentrated on sales of loose ice cream from catering establishments and samples from itinerant vendors in the evenings were obtained. Results showed a decided improvement.

	<u>Vans and Stalls</u>				<u>Premises</u>			
	<u>Grades</u>				<u>Grades</u>			
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Soft	12	3	2	1	-	-	-	-
Other loose	3	1	-	-	13	3	1	-
Wrapped	4	-	-	-	5	-	2	-

Some 105 premises, mostly general shops are registered for the sale of ice cream. In addition, ice cream is retailed by catering establishments of all sorts, from theatres, clubs schools and from the vehicles of itinerant vendors without the need to register. The need for constant control is most necessary in the case of the latter, especially in view of the seasonal nature of the business and substantial turnover of staff. The hygienic design of soft ice cream plant is excellent and, provided cleansing instructions are rigidly followed, a satisfactory product is reasonably assured. Regular sampling is the most effective safeguard we have.

3. Meat and Foods

There are 43 premises in the district registered for the manufacture of foods which do not include any catering establishments but range through food factories, fried fish shops, butchers (sausage manufacture), pie manufacture, provisions (ham cooking etc.) and shops with spit roasters or deep freeze pie cooking arrangements.

Of twelve complaints of unsound or mouldy foodstuffs prosecutions were successfully taken in three instances (bad meat pies (2) meat (1)). Two related to dressed chicken and it is clear that there is insufficient appreciation of the highly perishable nature of film wrapped dressed poultry, whether frozen or not. Once thawed and kept at ambient temperatures no more than twenty-four hours 'life' can be expected. Unless refrigerated the film wrap reduces the keeping qualities considerably and should be removed as soon as practicable by the housewife. The same applies to sausages and fresh meat wrapped in film.

Of sixteen complaints of contamination of foods with foreign bodies no less than six were unjustified or found on careful investigation to have been introduced at the complainants' own premises. There were no prosecutions. The public is the final filter and with, happily, commercial and public health interests coinciding in the matter, one cannot fail to be impressed by the efforts now being made, especially by larger manufacturers, to avoid extraneous matters in their products.

<u>Unsound Food Surrendered</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Meat at slaughterhouse (Not incl. offal) ...	3573
Offals ...	3376
Meat at wholesale premises ...	-
Meat at retail shops ...	335
Cooked meat and meat products ...	95
Canned Meats ...	452
Fish ...	143
Fruit and vegetables ...	2018
Other Foods ...	4474

In addition to meat and offals rejected at the Council's Abattoir 33 poultry and 17 rabbits were removed as unfit from a total of 4,768 poultry and 2,338 rabbits examined at Ashford Market food auctions. The condition of the birds has steadily improved over the years, and the proportion of birds and rabbits rejected as unfit is significantly lower.

Rejected meat from the slaughterhouse, unfit bacon and butchers meat is slashed and soaked with green aniline dye after which it is removed for the manufacture of by-products in another part of the county. Other foodstuffs, comprising mainly unsound tinned foods are disposed of by dumping under refuse at the Council's refuse dump.

Food Hygiene

Routine inspection of food premises and on-the-spot correction of food unhygienic practices are very necessary and more of this work should be done. The following list indicates improvements effected on food premises by informal written notifications to occupiers (and does not include verbal requests).

Wounds exposed, warnings given	...	...	-
Smoking, warnings given	...	...	1
Clothes storage, made satisfactory	...	...	1
First Aid, outfits provided	...	...	2
Hand washing facilities, improved	...	...	-
Hand washing labels, provided	...	...	5
Washing up facilities improved	...	...	6
Cleanliness, generally improved	...	...	11
Wall, floor and ceiling finishes improved	...	...	11
Lighting made adequate	...	...	1
Preparation tops made hygienic	...	...	3
Ventilation improved	...	...	1
Equipment - cleanliness made satisfactory	...	...	1
Exposed foods, protection improved	...	...	3
Temperature control of foods, warnings	...	...	-
Storage food, improved	...	...	6
Storage, wrapping and empties improved	...	...	-
Miscellaneous improvements	...	...	15

Apart from an outbreak at a local hospital there were no proven cases of food poisoning in the area. The outbreak was due to *Clostridium Welchii* and occurred, not because of lack of cleanliness but most probably the incorporation of cooked meat with fresh in a mince was the cause. Fortunately those nineteen affected soon recovered.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	499	210	77	3,133	4,873	-
Number inspected	499	210	77	3,133	4,873	-
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	2	2	12	9	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	84	67	5	592	246	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	16.7	32.9	9.1	3.3	5.2	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	1	-	-	39	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	0.5	-	-	0.8	-

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part (Cont.)

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number of Slaughterhouses in use

<u>Slaughterhouses/Abattoirs in operation or leased by Local Authority</u>	<u>Private Slaughter-houses</u>		<u>Bacon Factories</u>	<u>Knackers Yards</u>
	<u>Licensed</u>	<u>Operating</u>		
One	None	None	None	None

The Abattoir located near the Cattle Market opened on 25th March, 1964, is owned by the Urban Council and operated under an agreement by the Ashford Slaughtering Company Ltd., which was formed for the purpose by a number of local butchers. It meets the needs of local traders and is designed to be capable of serving an expanded Ashford in the future.

